



Data from the 2016 Minnesota State Survey

Data Practices Workgroup Overview

- Based on the Taskforce strategic planning, the workgroup was created.
- Workgroup was continued as the Taskforce/Policy Group merged
- Workgroup developed a research-focused workplan including:
 - Interview criminal justice practitioners' on challenges/opportunities
 - Conduct an environmental scan on citizen perspectives on use/access to criminal justice data
 - Utilize information from practitioners and scan to craft survey questions for Minnesotans on sharing and access to criminal justice data
 - Share research results with policy makers to aid future discussions
 - Utilize research to inform future Advisory Group activities

- Department of Public Safety hired Management Analysis and Development* to, among other things:
 - assist them in gathering and making meaning of data on practitioner perspectives and
 - use practitioner data to develop questions to be included in the University of Minnesota's 2016 Minnesota State Survey of the general public.
- MAD analyzed survey data based on the 2016 Minnesota State Survey Results and Technical Report and developed key findings.

**MAD is a division within Minnesota Management and Budget that provides independent consultation to public sector organizations.*

Reminder: practitioner interviews key findings

Things that are working well:

- Data generally shared or protected properly
- Practitioners can get the data they need
- Parts of the law are clear
- Useful databases exist
- IPAD is a useful resource
- Improved cross-agency and cross-discipline work

Challenges:

- Administrative challenges, particularly staff time and resources
- Inconsistent interpretation of the law
- Information does not “flow” within the system
- Complexity in the law, many variables and exceptions
- Negative outcomes to releasing data
- Fear of mistakes, lawsuits
- Prosecutors determine access

Practitioner interviews key findings (continued)

Potential changes/improvements:

- Additional training or resources for government entities
- Consistent interpretation of existing law
- Changes to database or computer system
- Fees to access data or funding to offset costs of data preparation
- More education and involvement for the general public

Potential statute changes:

- Simplify or clarify law
- Better address juvenile justice data
- Examine impact of technology on data practices
- Change law to limit data that can be released
- Better address victim protection and access to data

About the U of M's survey

From the University's *2016 Minnesota State Survey Results and Technical Report*:

- The survey was administered via cell phone and landline based on random selection from October 2016 to April 2017.
- 806 Minnesotans age 18 and up completed the survey.
 - Response rate= 11.5% (14% for landlines, 9% for cell phones)
- Survey results can be generalized to represent the views of all Minnesotans.
 - Each percentage point represents the views of 40,199 Minnesotan adults.

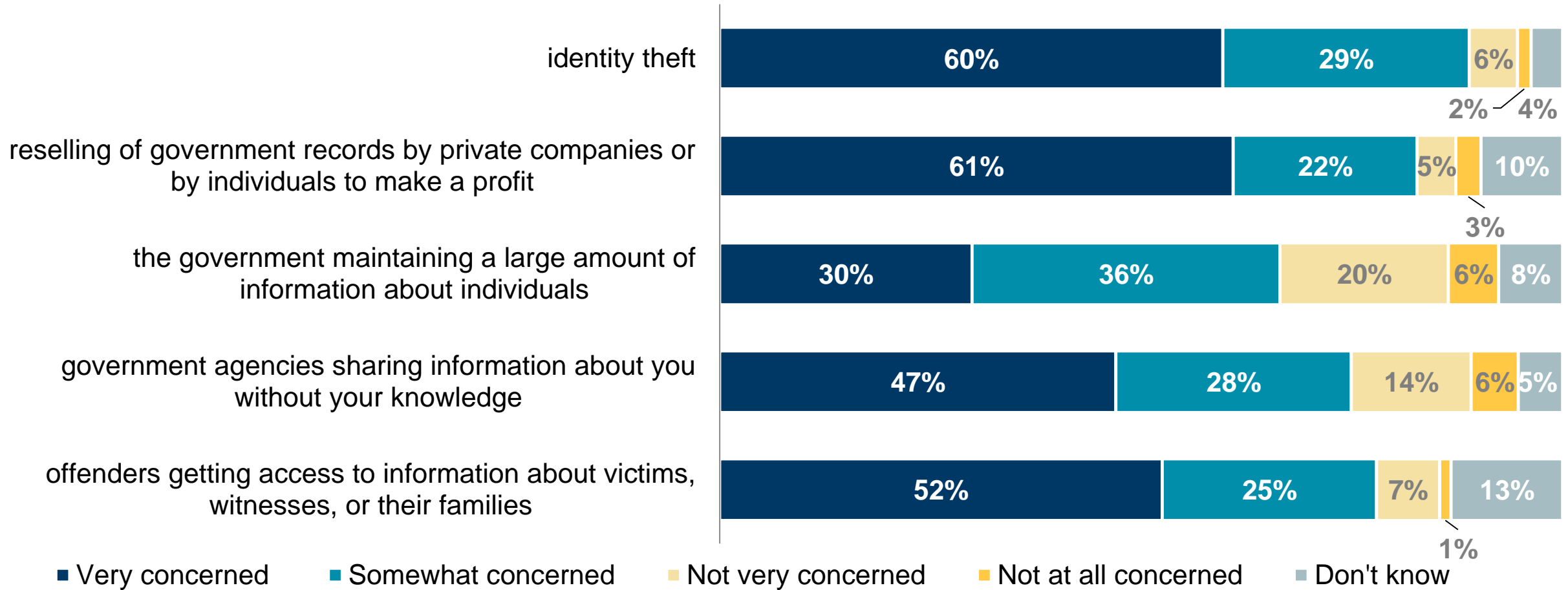
About the U of M's survey (continued)

- For data practices questions, any survey result could be up to 3.5 percentage points higher or lower than what it would be if the survey included all Minnesotans (called a margin of error, common in all surveys of this type, varies slightly by question).
 - Example: If the survey found that 50 percent of respondents will be travelling out of state, the actual percent of all Minnesotans travelling out of state would be between 46.5 and 53.5%.
- Groups that are underrepresented by the survey include people who are nonwhite and people who are under age 55.
- Language barriers led to the exclusion of 71 respondents.

About the U of M's survey (continued)

- For each scenario, the University of Minnesota provided a report on demographics, which they tested for significance using Chi Square.
 - Tests the likelihood that the breakdown of results by demographics is due to a pattern and is not random, or that the demographics and responses are “correlated.”
 - “Correlated” does not identify *how* they are related (whether one causes the other).
 - Demographics that pass this test are “statistically significant.”
 - Statistically significant means 95 percent of the time, there is a relationship between the demographic and the survey question—it’s not just random.
 - MAD included in this presentation the results for those demographics that were statistically significant, by scenario.
 - MAD also included interpretation of demographic patterns in the Key Findings section.
 - Some demographics are highly correlated with one another, such as education and income, which may inform why they commonly appear as significant for the same survey question.

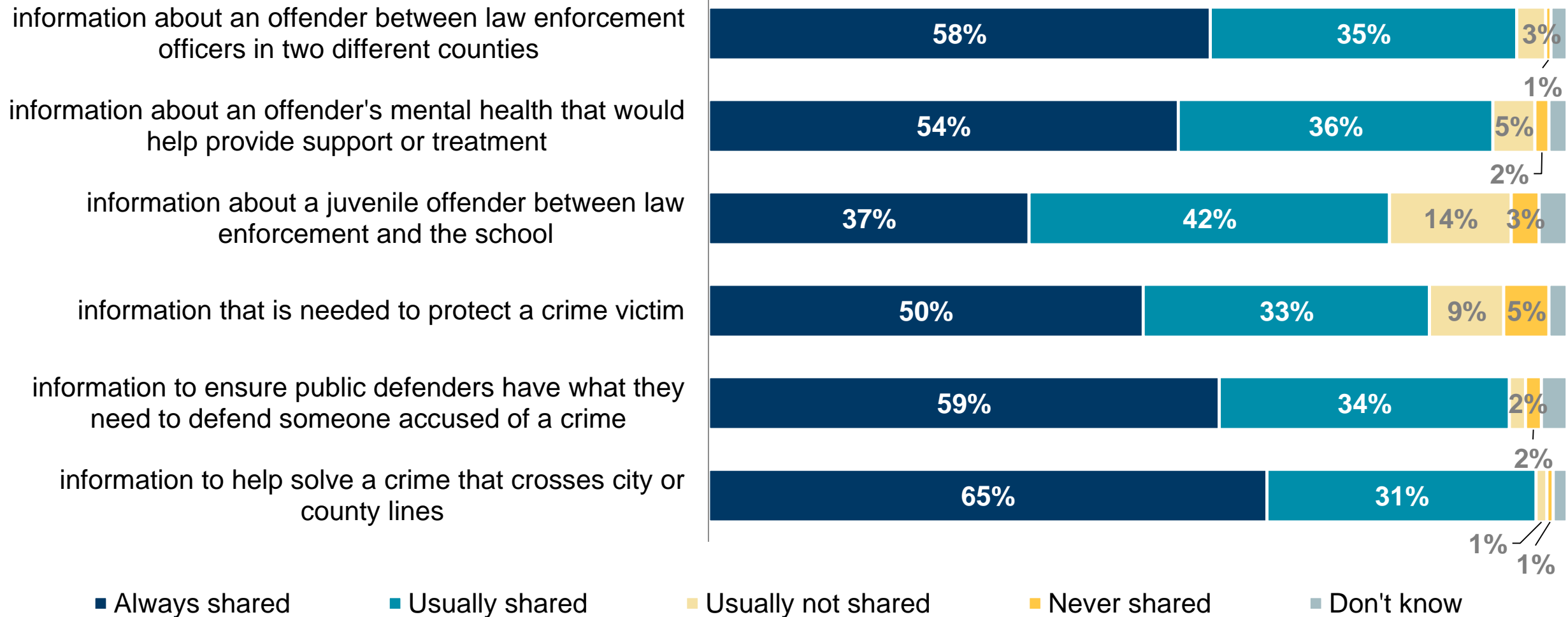
Question 1: Concerns about data



Characteristics correlated with increased concern

- Party
 - Not a significant factor.
- Location
 - Being from Greater Minnesota correlated with somewhat or very concerned for 1a, 1d, and 1e.
- Education
 - Having less formal education correlated with somewhat or very concerned for 1a, 1c, and 1e.
 - Having more formal education correlated with somewhat or very concerned for 1b and 1d.
- Age
 - Being older correlated with somewhat or very concerned for 1a, 1b, 1d, and 1e.
- Gender
 - Not a significant factor, but higher concern correlated with women for 1a, 1b, 1d, 1e.
- Income
 - Having lower income correlated with somewhat or very concerned for 1c.
 - Having higher income correlated with somewhat or very concerned for 1d.
- Household composition
 - Being married with children correlated with somewhat or very concerned for 1a.

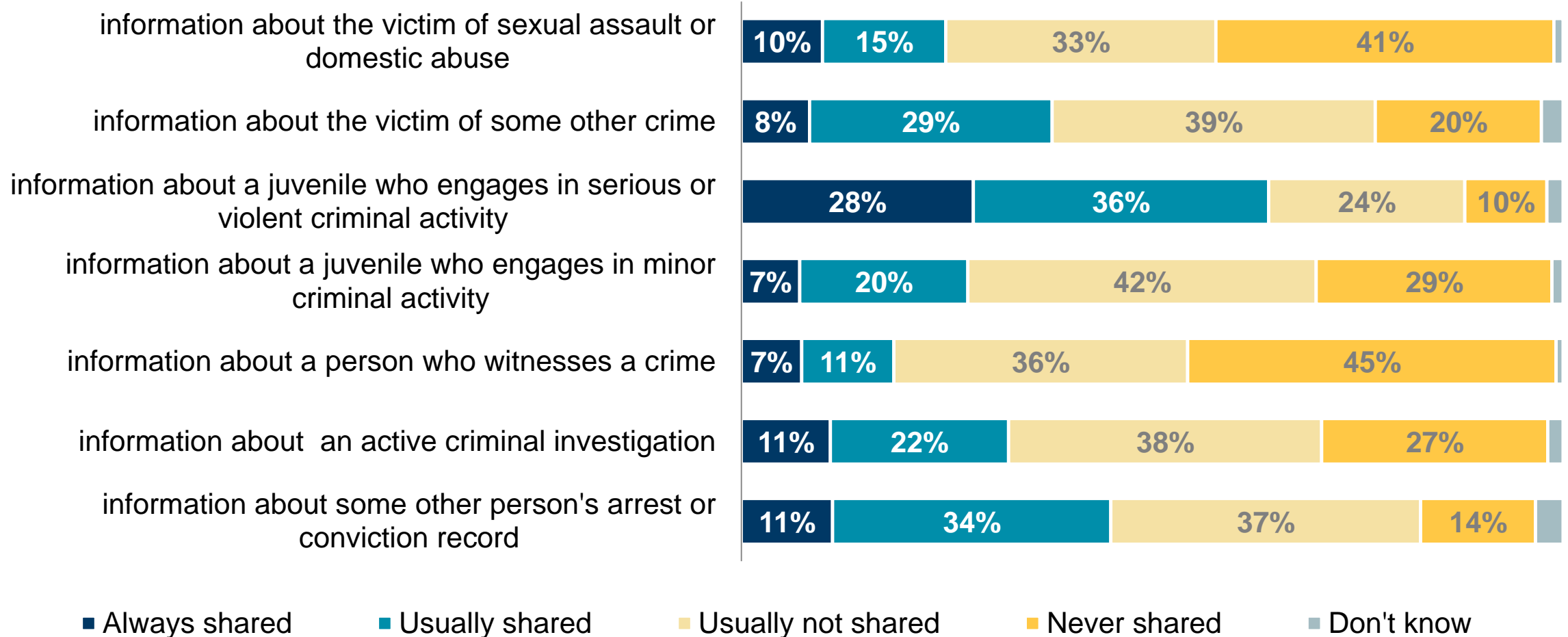
Question 2: Sharing data among government agencies



Characteristics correlated with support for sharing information

- Party
 - Being Independent or Republican correlated with always or usually share for 2a, 2c, and 2f.
- Location
 - Being from Greater Minnesota correlated with always or usually share for 2a and 2f.
 - Being from the Twin Cities correlated with always or usually share for 2c.
- Education
 - Having less formal education correlated with always or usually share for 2b and 2c.
 - Having more formal education correlated with always or usually share for 2a, 2e, and 2f.
- Age
 - Being older correlated with always or usually share for 2a and 2c.
- Gender
 - Not a significant factor, no strong pattern.
- Income
 - Having lower income correlated with always or usually share for 2b and 2c.
 - 2c. Both extreme high and extreme low income correlated with always or usually share.
- Household composition
 - Being married correlated with always or usually share for 2f.
 - Not having children correlated with always or usually share for 2d.

Question 3: Sharing data with the public*



*Data from Q3g, g-1 (respondent's arrest or conviction record) are not included due to possible different interpretations of the question.

Characteristics correlated with support for sharing information

- 3a. Information about a victim of sexual assault:
 - Being older
 - Having less formal education
 - Being male (90%)
 - Having more income (90%)
 - Being married
 - Not having kids
- 3b. Information about a victim of some other crime:
 - Being Independent (more extreme)
 - Being age 65 or over
 - Having less formal education
 - Making less than \$80,000 per year (household)
 - Not having kids
- 3c. Information on a juvenile who engages in serious or violent criminal activity:
 - Being Republican
 - Being from Greater Minnesota
 - Being older (90%)
 - Having less formal education
- 3d. Information on a juvenile who engages in minor criminal activity:
 - Being Independent (more extreme)
 - Being from Greater Minnesota (90%)
 - Being older (90%)
 - Having less formal education
 - Having lower income (90%)

Characteristics correlated with support for sharing information

- Party
 - Being Independent or Republican correlated with always or usually share for 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, and 3g.
- Location
 - Being from Greater Minnesota correlated with always or usually share for 3c and 3h.
- Education
 - Having less formal education correlated with always or usually share for all scenarios.
- Age
 - Being older correlated with always or usually share for 3a, 3b, and 3e.
- Gender
 - Not a significant factor, males more often responded always or usually share.
- Income
 - Having lower income correlated with always or usually share for 3b, 3d, 3f, and 3h.
- Household composition
 - Being married correlated with always or usually share for 3a.
 - Not having children correlated with always or usually share for 3a and 3b.

Key findings from the survey

- Overall, respondents said they were concerned about the scenarios presented in each of the questions about data sharing. They were slightly less concerned about government maintaining databases or sharing information without the respondent's knowledge.
- For several scenarios about data sharing, many respondents offered that they didn't know if they were concerned. ("Don't know" was not an option presented by survey interviewers.)
- In the scenarios presented by survey questions about government agencies sharing data, respondents generally said data should be shared.

Key findings from the survey (continued)

- In the scenarios presented by survey questions about sharing data with the public, respondents generally said data should not be shared.
- Fewer respondents said data should be shared when it involved someone who might be considered vulnerable—like a victim, witness, or juvenile—exceptions included:
 - when the information is about a juvenile engaging in serious or violent criminal activity and
 - when the information is about a victim of a crime other than sexual assault or domestic abuse.

Key findings from the survey (continued)

- Education was the demographic characteristic most commonly correlated with responses, followed by age and income.
 - Generally, those with more formal education (and often higher income) tended to favor data sharing among government agencies, but did not tend to favor data sharing with the public.
 - Those who are older tended to favor data sharing for vulnerable populations more so than younger individuals.
- Overall, party affiliation, location, gender, and household composition were not strongly correlated with responses, however:
 - Independents, Republicans, people in Greater Minnesota, and men tended to favor more sharing of data compared to Democrats, people from the Twin Cities, and women.

Discussion

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